



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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Governor

L. Hall Bohlinger
Secretary

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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

DEQ Secretary To Address Workshop on Waste Minimization

(Baton Rouge) – The Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), L. Hall Bohlinger, will give opening remarks at a workshop and roundtable discussion on Opportunities to Advance Waste Minimization and Reuse of Secondary Materials. Environmental Issues Management, LLC, in cooperation with DEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is hosting the workshop to be held today at the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge. The program will run from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the Bayou-Levee Room.

At the recently held Governor's Environmental Leadership Awards ceremony, Secretary Bohlinger announced the EPA's National Waste Minimization Partnership Program. This initiative works with industrial organizations, government agencies and communities to find ways to help individual companies develop manufacturing solutions to reduce the amount of waste they generate at its source or through recycling. The purpose of the workshop is to introduce this program in Louisiana in order to develop a partnership between senior industry environmental representatives, professional organizations and state regulatory agencies to advance the EPA initiative.

According to EPA, statistics indicate that the use of resources and the generation of waste are increasing and that the existing regulatory environment produces limited incentives to industry to move beyond compliance and

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decrease the flow of wastes they are producing. The result is that materials that could be reused are being incinerated or combusted. The workshop will be used in part to identify barriers and disincentives to the implementation of waste minimization efforts.

Secretary Bohlinger said that, “For several years we have successfully sponsored and managed a waste minimization effort of our own with the Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program. I am happy to initiate an effort to team with EPA to stretch the capabilities of both programs in implementing new concepts that will provide long-term environmental gains for the state.”

The Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program is designed to encourage industry to voluntarily adopt pollution prevention and environmental improvement strategies in Louisiana. The Governor’s Environmental Leadership Awards were instituted to publicly showcase the innovative approaches used by the members of the Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program to achieve these goals. Over 30 states around the country have environmental awards or recognition programs, 22 of which are called the Governor’s Awards. In all of these, the state environmental agency is closely involved.

“We believe that voluntary programs offer real potential for improvements in environmental performance and represent a step well worth taking for both federal and state regulatory agencies,” the Secretary stated.